## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, PFOR, JM, CU

SUBJECT: CERF 0002: JAMAICANS DEPARTING FOR TRAINING IN CUBA

REF: KINGSTON A-66, APRIL 29, 1975

- 1. THIRTY-THREE YOUNG JAMAICANS LEFT KINGSTON MAY 7
  ON THE CUBANA FLIGHT TO BEGIN ONE YEAR'S STUDY OF
  CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. IN A PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS
  CONFERENCE MINISTER OF HOUSING SPAULDING INDICATED THEY
  ALSO WOULD STUDY SPANISH AS WELL AS OTHER SUBJECTS
  WHICH WILL "GEAR THEM FOR LEADERSHIP IN THEIR RESPECTIVE
  COMMUNITIES" ON THEIR RETURN TO JAMAICA. THE "BRIGADE"
  OF 33 WILL BE JOINED BY 150 OTHERS SHORTLY.
- 2. THE GROUP WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FRANCIS TULLOCH AND HIS WIFE, DR. EDWIN JONES OF THE UWI WHO WILL SERVE AS EVALUATOR AND COORDINATOR OF THE PROGRAM COUNCILLOR DERRICK HEAVEN AND MR. CARLTON ROBINSON OF THE JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT BANK. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO STAY NINE DAYS IN CUBA FINALIZING PLANS FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE CUBAN TEAM IN JAMAICA AND OTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS. MR. SHELDON MCDONALD HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE LEADER OF THE BRIGADE. THE TRAINING COMES UNDER A TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS CONCLUDED MARCH 26, 1975, BY MINISTER SPAULDING AND

CUBA'S MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, LEVY FARAH. THE AGREEMENT IS TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY.

3. THE OVERALL PROGRAM CALLS FOR THE ONGOING TRAINING OF JAMAICAN SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED ARTISANS AND TECHNICIANS, THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES, AND CUBA'S DONATION OF A HOUSING PREFABRICATION PLANT CAPABLE OF PRODUCING 400 DWELLING UNITS ANNUALLY. EACH COUNTRY IS TO PAY THE COST OF AIR TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS, HEALTH SERVICES, INTERNAL TRAVEL, AND

PERSONAL ALLOWANCES FOR ITS OWN NATIONALS. THE GOJ HAS UNDERTAKEN TO SET UP A SPECIAL FUND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEPENDENTS OF THE BRIGADE AND THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WILL PAY THE COST OF MOVING THE PRE-FAB CONSTRUCTION PLANT FROM SITE TO SITE IN JAMAICA.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE SENATOR DUDLEY THOMPSON'S PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT NOBODY SHOULD HAVE ANY FEAR THAT THE YOUTHS SENT TO CUBA WILL BE COMMUNIZED, THAT IS PRECISELY THE FEAR THAT PREOCCUPIES MANY JAMAICANS. THE "BRIDGADE'S" CLINCHED FIST SALUTE AS IT BOARDED THE CUBANA AIRCRAFT DID LITTLE TO ALLAY THE CONCERN THAT THIS GROUP OF HAND-PICKED PNP YOUTH WILL BE RECEIVING "HIGHER EDUCATION" IN POLITICAL THUGGERY DURING ITS STAY IN CUBA. THE FACT THAT WHEN THESE YOUTHS RETURN THEY ARE GOING TO WORK FOR MINISTER OF HOUSING SPAULDING, THE WELL-KNOWN DIRECTOR/CONTROLLER OF PNP OUNMEN AND THUGS, LEADS THE EMBASSY TO SPECULATE THEY WILL HAVE MORE THAN ARTISANAL DUTIES WHEN THEY GET BACK. IF. AS MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS AGREE, THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL LATE 1976 OR EARLY 1977, A CONSIDERABLE CADRE OF PNP YOUTH WILL HAVE RETURNED FROM TRAINING IN CUBA IN TIME FOR THE CAMPAIGN. **GERARD** 

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## Message Attributes

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